

ABSTRACT

5 A user of an instant messaging system may store names of other users of the instant
messaging system on a participant list (which may be referred to as a “buddy list”), and the
names may be categorized into one or more groups. Similarly, a user of a mobile device,
such as a mobile telephone, may store contact information about people on the mobile
device. Information describing the on-line presence of the user within the instant messaging
system or the geographic location of a mobile device, such as a mobile telephone associated
with the user, may be disseminated to users on the participant list or to people on the contact
10 list based on notification information that is associated with groups of users or contacts.

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